

BOOK REVIEW

KEYS TO THE INSECTS OF THE EUROPEAN PARTS OF THE U.S.S.R. VOL. 2, COLEOPTERA AND STREPSIPTERA. By O. Kryzhanovskij and others. 668 pp., 172 plates. Moscow, 1965. [In Russian]

The first of five volumes on the insects of Russia under the general editorship of G. Y. Bey-Bienko, this book is well printed and bound. Many good line drawings and habitus sketches serve as useable illustrations. The format is simple, consisting solely of keys to families, genera, and species after a short introduction to beetle anatomy.

The text states that there are 20,000 species of beetles recorded from all of Russia (including Siberia), but fails to mention the total number included in this work. It is presumed to be complete for European Russia, but the fauna seems very limited if this is so. Of course, European Russia does not have the variation in habitats that we are used to in this country.

The keys are simple and compact, made possible by the liberal use of abbreviations as is the European tradition in faunal works of this sort. Eighty-four families are included, following a notably conservative classification. Each family is numbered and a brief account of the family is given which includes habitat information, the approximate number of species in the area covered as well as the number for all of Russia. Except for the large families, for example, Scarabaeidae, no keys to the subfamilies or tribes are included. Separate keys to genera precede the generic treatment. Each genus has a brief account and the number of species that occur in all of Russia is given. There follows a key to the species. The part of the couplet leading to the specific name contains a fuller account of the characters of the species than does the alternative. Comments on the habitats of larvae and adults and the distribution of the species is also included in this part of the couplet.

A limited knowledge of the language and the fauna prevents me from commenting on the usefulness of the book or the number of errors. I have only two criticisms: 1) the authors did not attempt to bring the nomenclature up to date, 2) no references or bibliography of any kind appear in the book. There are not even references to general works on the beetles of Russia. However, I am sure the book has a very practical value to those working with this fauna.—ROSS H. ARNETT, JR., *American Entomology Institute*.

A KEY TO THE GENERA OF THE SUBFAMILY NITIDULINAE (COLEOPTERA: NITIDULIDAE). By Lorin R. Gillogly. Calif. Dept. of Agric., Bur. Ent. Occasional Papers No. 8, 24 pp. 1965.

Coleopterists wishing to do taxonomic studies of the Nitidulidae have been handicapped for a long time by the lack of adequate diagnostic tools. There are relatively good keys for the fauna of the Palearctic and Nearctic Regions, but this is not true of the rest of the world. Lorin R. Gillogly has a project underway designed to alleviate this situation. The first publication resulting from this effort was released in November 1965. It considers the largest and most varied of the five subfamilies, which it indicates contains 96 genera. This is a welcome addition to the literature on Nitidulidae and it is hoped that this project will soon be producing additional material of this nature.—W. A. CONNELL, *Univ. of Delaware, Newark, Delaware*.

NOTICE

Mark Robinson, of Philadelphia, died on October 9, 1965. A man of broad interests, he is best known among coleopterists for his work on the Scarabaeidae.

Charles H. Seevers, of Chicago, died on December 4, 1965. He was the outstanding authority on the termitophilous and myrmecophilous Staphylinidae.

Harold J. Grant, Jr., died on February 27, 1966. Grant was known to all systematists as the Curator of Insects at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.